

**MADISON COUNTY LEPC  
(Local Emergency Planning Committee)  
Meeting Minutes 16 November 2006**

**Attendees:**

Karen Brown, MadCo GIS/IT and MCSAR  
Steve Orr, MCSO/VCRFD/MVRFD  
Lewis Stahl, HVFD  
Shawn Christensen, MVRFD & MCSAR  
Scott McClintic, MVRFD  
Joe G. Husar, Harrison QRU & MadCo Risk Mitigation Coordinator  
Melinda Tichenor, Madison Valley Hospital & MadCo CCC  
David Schenk, MCSO  
Roman Hendrickson, MD, Ruby Valley Hospital  
Frank Ford, MadCo Emergency Management

The regular monthly meeting of the LEPC was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Stahl. Scott McClintic moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting with the typographic correction as noted by Karen Brown. Roman Hendrickson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

Chairman Stahl read an article about interpersonal relations and perceptions to open the meeting.

**Director of Emergency Management Report:** The Chairman called for comments on the Director of Emergency Management's monthly report, which was provided in writing in advance to the members. There were no comments.

**CCC Report:** Shawn Christensen began the CCC report by announcing that the next CERT training would be held on 6, 13 and 14 January in Ennis at the fire hall. There will also be a "CERT post-graduate" course in traffic control and safety held on 16 January at the same location. Melinda Tichenor then elaborated on the report and secured confirmation from the sheriff that his department could provide appropriately trained instructors for the traffic control course. She also noted that recent CERT training in Twin Bridges has resulted in 5 new trainees. Frank commented that CCC needs more support from the LEPC and the community, since prospects for future federal funding, despite spectacular local successes of the program, appear to be slim. He also stressed that we need to work hard at integrating the CERT volunteers into the overall county emergency management/public safety effort during the coming year.

**Risk Mitigation Coordinator Report:** Joe Husar reported that the subdivision review process has been steadily improving in quality and in responsiveness. Developers are increasingly accepting and responding to the public safety reviews that he has been conducting. Frank interjected that the county Planning Department is quite pleased with the way things are developing and the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners are beginning to expect and integrate the reviews into their decision making process. Joe then reported that he and Frank, disappointed with the tepid response to the WUI/Defensible Space program to date, have proposed to Headwaters RC&D and the BLM that we make one final effort at getting this program re-energized and then, if not successful, to fold it up.

## **Old Business**

**Public Safety Subdivision Regulations Review:** The group segued into working on the LEPC's proposal for public safety aspects of subdivision regulations. Joe Husar reported that he and Shawn had been working on developing Fire Safety and Road Standard regulations. They want to make the regulations very "black and white" vs "grey", and are using Gallatin County regulations and NFPA standards as guidelines in their work. Frank offered use of his NFPA 1142 and 1144 publications, which was accepted. General discussion of various aspects of the proposal followed. Roman Hendrickson noted that the effects of cumulative impact vs limited resources must be addressed and offered to provide the address of an internet site that might provide methodologies and costing information. He will supply that to Frank.

After much discussion, the group agreed that five of the eleven "bullets" identified at the last meeting (and as laid out in the minutes thereof) were being addressed in one form or another, leaving Signage, Communications, Affordable Housing, Cumulative Impact/Availability of Services and Defensible Space yet to be addressed. The Sheriff agreed to tackle signage and Frank volunteered to write a proposal for communications and another for cumulative impact/resource availability. Joe thought defensible space might be derived from NFPA 1144 and his own work as Risk Mitigation Coordinator. Affordable housing was tabled for later discussion. At this point a number of the members raised the question of enforcement of the regulations once implemented, as well as the need for continued adherence to the standards once the developer was no longer in the picture. General discussion followed, during which Frank agreed to ask the Commissioners to determine the turning radius of their largest water tender, in order to consider this in the new regulation proposal..

## **New Business**

Citing his election as County Commissioner, Chairman Stahl resigned his post, effective immediately, although he assured the group that he would continue to attend meetings as a member and representative of the Board of Commissioners. Steve Orr nominated Joe Husar as Chairman to replace Lewis. Everyone at the table seconded the motion and, with Joe's acceptance, he was elected by acclamation.

Steve Orr then nominated John Bancroft to replace Joe as Vice Chairman. Scott seconded, noting that he was not currently in attendance. John was elected unanimously, subject to his concurrence.

Julie Dewey, having accepted a position in Dillon, will no longer be able to act as Secretary of the LEPC. After general discussion, Frank agreed to check with the Commissioners to see whether that function automatically was part of the new County Grant Writer's position.

Joe Husar then assumed the position of Chairman. The next meeting was set for 7:00 PM, 21 December 2006 in the Courthouse and the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM..

Minutes recorded by F. R. Ford